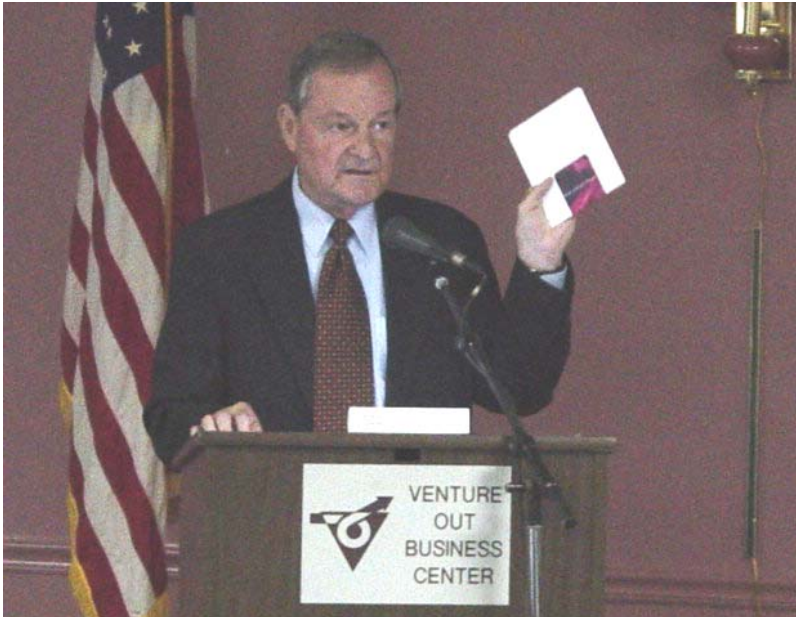


Energize Indiana Update

Friday, June 13, 2003



Governor Frank O'Bannon tells Southeastern Indiana business leaders they will receive a CD that will help them learn more about Energize Indiana. The CD contains "how-to" information for entrepreneurs and businesses hoping to expand, along with contact information for each of EI's programs and initiatives. *Staff photo*

The News in Brief...

O'Bannon, Kernan Energize Southeast Indiana at first of 12 forums

Governor Frank O'Bannon told more than 125 Southeast Indiana leaders Wednesday that "with your help, Energize Indiana will allow us to transform the Hoosier economy."

Elected officials and business, community and economic development leaders came to Madison for the first of 12 forums being held around the state to hear about the Energize Indiana economic development program. O'Bannon thanked legislators, including forum attendees state Reps. Cleo Duncan (R) and Markt Lytle (D), and Sen. Robert Jackman (R), for their bipartisan work on Energize.

Forum attendees heard from state officials about how to transform Energize Indiana into a reality for their community or business.

"One reason we're holding these forums throughout the state is a basic principle of good business – customer service," Lieutenant Governor Joe Kernan said. "We have many great programs for economic development in Indiana, but we need to ensure that our customers are well equipped to use them."

The next Energize Indiana Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, in Kokomo at the Ivy Tech campus main building. For more information, call (765) 868-8167.

For more about Energize Indiana:

IN Department of Commerce

(317) 232-8800

www.indianacommerce.com

IN Department of Workforce Development

(317) 233-5514

www.workforce.IN.gov

Rural development

(317) 232-8876

www.IN.gov/irdc or www.IN.gov/oca

The Ports of Indiana

(317) 232-9200

www.portsofindiana.com

The 21st Century

Research and Technology Fund

(317) 234-1625

www.21fund.org

Economic profile:

Department of Commerce Region 9

Dearborn, Fayette, Franklin, Jefferson, Ohio, Ripley, Rush, Switzerland and Union counties

Region 9 is the most rural of Indiana's 12 commerce regions. It is home to Hanover College and Hill-Rom Co. Inc. as well as Ivy Tech campuses in Madison and Lawrenceburg.

Success story: [The Venture Out Business Center](#)

The center is a business incubator in Madison that provides opportunities for expanding Hoosier businesses. The center was opened in 1996 by community leaders to help small businesses create jobs and grow in Southeast Indiana. Today, Venture Out is home to 12 small businesses, ranging from nursing and computer education to real estate, photography, telecommunications and engineering. The multi-use facility also houses the Department of Commerce Region 9 office, the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, the Madison Industrial Development Corp. and the Southeastern Indiana Small Business Development Corp.